

283

10. The method of claim 7, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid is selected from a para-substituted, ortho-substituted, or meta-substituted phenylalanine comprising a carbonyl group, an aminooxy group, a hydrazide group, a hydrazine group, a semicarbazide group, an azide group, or an alkyne group, or wherein said non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises para-acetyl-L-phenylalanine.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein the modified relaxin polypeptide exhibits an increased in vivo half-life by at least 2-fold relative to the human relaxin polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 4 and SEQ ID NO: 5.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein said non-naturally encoded amino acid is linked to a linker and said linker is linked to a polymer, a water-soluble polymer, a polymer comprising poly(ethylene glycol), a label, a dye, a fatty acid, a carbohydrate, a saccharide, a cyclodextrin, a fluorophore, or biotin.

13. The method of claim 7, wherein the heart failure comprises congestive heart failure.

14. The method of claim 7, wherein the heart failure comprises chronic heart failure.

15. The method of claim 7, wherein the heart failure comprises acute heart failure.

16. A method of treating heart failure in a human subject in need thereof, comprising administering to said human subject an effective amount of a biologically active modified relaxin polypeptide, wherein: (a) the relaxin polypeptide comprises a relaxin A chain polypeptide and a relaxin B chain polypeptide, wherein said relaxin A chain polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 substituted with said non-naturally encoded amino acid at residue 1, and said relaxin B chain polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6; and (b) said non-naturally encoded amino acid is linked to a linker or polymer by a triazole or an oxime linkage.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said non-naturally encoded amino acid is linked to said linker or polymer by an

284

oxime linkage resulting from a reaction of a first functional group and a second functional group, wherein said first functional group comprises a carbonyl group and said second functional group comprises an aminooxy group.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises said first functional group and said second functional group is linked to said linker or polymer, and the oxime linkage resulting from the reaction of said first functional group and said second functional group links said non-naturally encoded amino acid to said linker or polymer.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid is selected from a para-substituted, ortho-substituted, or meta-substituted phenylalanine comprising a carbonyl group, an aminooxy group, a hydrazide group, a hydrazine group, a semicarbazide group, an azide group, or an alkyne group, or wherein said non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises para-acetyl-L-phenylalanine.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein the modified relaxin polypeptide exhibits an increased in vivo half-life by at least 2-fold relative to the human relaxin polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 4 and SEQ ID NO: 5.

21. The method of claim 16, wherein said non-naturally encoded amino acid is linked to a linker and said linker is linked to a polymer, a water-soluble polymer, a polymer comprising poly(ethylene glycol), a label, a dye, a fatty acid, a carbohydrate, a saccharide, a cyclodextrin, a fluorophore, or biotin.

22. The method of claim 16, wherein the heart failure comprises congestive heart failure.

23. The method of claim 16, wherein the heart failure comprises chronic heart failure.

24. The method of claim 16, wherein the heart failure comprises acute heart failure.

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